

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of March 15, 2005. Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 36-38, and 40 are amended as shown. Independent claims 1, 35 and 39 are canceled herein without prejudice. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 2-34, 36-38, and 40 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 11-34 were allowed. The Examiner further indicated that claims 2-10, 36, 38, and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims. The applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tedrow (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,119). Claims 35 and 39 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tedrow.

To obtain allowance, dependent claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of its base claim 1. Similarly, dependent claims 4, 5, 6, and 9 are rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base claim 1. Dependent claim 10 has been amended to change its dependency to newly independent claim 9, which recites a feedback. These newly independent claims and their respective dependent claims are now allowable.

Dependent claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim 35. Dependent claims 37 and 38 are also rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of claim 35. With regards to claim 37, the claim as originally filed was made dependent on claim 37, which was a typographical error. With claim 37 now in independent form, this typographical error is removed. With respect to dependent claim 38, the claim as originally filed was intended to be dependent on claim 35, rather than being dependent on claim 1. With claim 38 now rewritten in independent form, this typographical error is now also corrected.

Claim 40 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of its base claim 39. Newly independent claim 40 is now allowable, as well as the other newly independent claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter on page 4. The applicants note that the language used by the Examiner in his statement pertains to independent claim 11. The other allowable claims are allowable based on the specific language used by such claims, and are not limited by the specific language used by the Examiner in his statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, since such language only applies to independent claim 11.

On March 2, 2005, the applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and a form PTO-1449 that listed a foreign patent document (European Application Serial No. 02425293.4, filed May 13, 2002, Publication No. EP 1365417 A1). Because this IDS was filed shortly before the present Office Action was mailed, it is believed that the Examiner was not able to review the cited reference before issuing the present Office Action. Accordingly, the applicants are resubmitting the form PTO-1449, including a copy of the cited reference, along with this Amendment. The Examiner is kindly requested to return an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 with the next communication, to confirm that the listed reference has been considered. It is believed that a fee is not required for re-submitting the form PTO-1449 and the cited reference.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

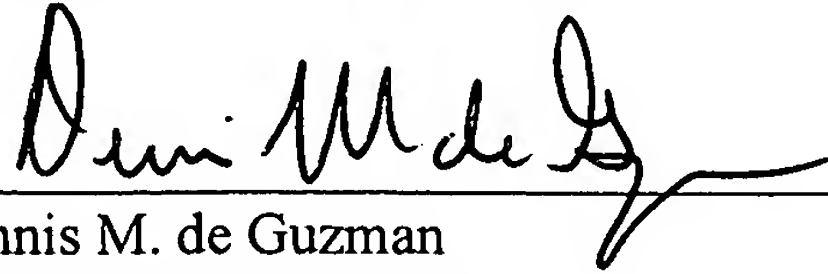
The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/651,019
Reply to Office Action dated March 15, 2005

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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PTO-1449
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